Journal Prompts for Students

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| **Affective/Attitudinal**  **(How do you feel?)** |
| Explain how you feel about mathematics now as compared to before you took this class. |
| My best kept secret about math is... |
| If math could be a color (shape, sound), it would be...because... |
| I want to become better at math so that I... |
| People who are good at math... |
| My best experience with math was when... |
| My worst experience with math was when... |
| When it comes to math, I find it difficult to... |
| When I hear someone say math is fun, I... |
| Draw a picture of a mathematician and describe what a mathematician does. |
| If I were better at math, I would... |
| What kind of math figure are you? (Circle, square, triangle, parallelogram, etc.) Why did you choose that figure? |
| Describe your feelings about showing your work on the board or overhead. |
| Does mathematics or math class scare you in any way? |
| My three personal goals for this term are... |
| Describe how today's math class will affect your day. |
| What did you like most about your previous math class? What did you like the least? |
| My math grade now is ...because... |
| This is how I feel about Algebra (Pre-algebra, Percents, Fractions, etc.) |
| One mathematics activity I really enjoy is...because... |
| This is how I used math this week (outside of school)... |
| Draw a cartoon of the 'Math Monster' and write what the 'Math Monster' is saying to you. |
| Write a letter to a student who will be taking this class next year, giving some advice about this class. |
| Design two mathematical bumper stickers, one funny, one serious. |
| My parents feel that math is... |

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| **Mathematical Content**  **(What is it about?)** |
| The difference between... and ... is... |
| I think a ... is... (I thought a ... was...) |
| How would you describe a ...? |
| What patterns do you notice in ... |
| How do you use ... in your life? |
| Make a list of objects or figures in the room which have ... How can you tell? |
| Write your own definition of a ... |
| Explain how ... |
| Write all you know about ... |
| How many squares are there on a chess board? Describe your strategy for solving this problem. |
| Describe the mathematics seen in a photograph. (Photograph may need to be provided). |
| Write and solve a word problem whose solution involves ... |
| Find a shortcut for ... |
| Explain the ... |
| Describe practical uses for ... |
| Compare and contrast the terms ... |
| Explain everything you know about ... |
| Write an explanation about the differences between ... and ... |
| How many dimensions does a pencil have? Explain your answer. |
| Why can't you divide by zero? |
| How can you find a number with thirteen factors? |
| What is a ...? Write all you can about ... |
| How do you simplify...? |
| Why do we need proofs in mathematics? |
| Why is it necessary...? |

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| **Process**  **(Explain how!)** |
| The most important part of solving a problem is... |
| Write instructions for a fifth grader to follow when (adding fractions, finding percentages, calculating averages, etc.) |
| Find something that you learned today that is similar to something you already knew. Write about these similarities. |
| Do you use tables or diagrams when solving a problem? Why or why not? |
| You know several ways to.... (solve an equation, factor a quadratic, add fractions, etc.) Which method is your favorite? Why? |
| How important is being neat and organized to you in general, and when you are doing math? |
| When I study for a test, I... |
| Write a letter to your teacher explaining what you do understand about the topic, and what needs to be clarified. |
| When I read a math textbook, and see a word I don't know, I... |
| The key idea of the lesson today was... |
| When I see a word problem, the first thing I do is...Then I... |
| What are the benefits of journal writing for mathematics classes? |
| How could journal writing be changed to be more effective? |
| When you get a test back, do you make corrections or ask questions? Why or why not? |
| How do I read my math textbook? |
| Describe any computational procedure that you invented. |
| How should we use class time to the best advantage? |
| Write possible test questions for this unit. |
| What is the most significant thing you learned this week? |
| What questions are still unanswered at the end of this week? |
| Explain how you can improve your communication and cooperation in the mathematics classroom. |
| Describe any discoveries you make about mathematics (patterns, relationships, procedures, etc.). |
| Describe the process you undertook to solve this problem. (Problem needs to be provided.) |
| Write WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW across the top of your page. Answer these questions based on today's class. |
| Describe the graph of...as if you were explaining it to a friend over the phone. |